

Quick Start Guide to the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code

In 2002 Wisconsin adopted several of the **International Code Council (ICC)** suite of codes (I-Codes) to replace the majority of the state's previous Commercial and Multifamily Building Codes. (This did not affect Wisconsin's Uniform Plumbing Code, Uniform Dwelling Code for one- and two-family dwellings, or Wisconsin's Electrical Code.)

- **Official code availability** – The official adopted versions of the Wisconsin amendments (not the I-Codes) are available for purchase from: State Document Sales (800- 362-7253, docsales@doa.state.wi.us) or [onlinehttp://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivCodesListing.html](http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivCodesListing.html).
- **Enrolled code version** – The Safety and Buildings Division, in cooperation with the ICC, produced an Enrolled Wisconsin Building Code, which combines the Wisconsin code language with the adopted provisions of the I-Codes. The Enrolled Code is available for in paper or electronic CD versions, <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-CommercialBuildingsCodeObtain.html>.
- **Adopted codes** – The 2000 editions of the I-Codes have been adopted as follows:
 - **International Building Code (IBC)**
 - **International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)**
 - **International Mechanical Code (IMC)** – As of May 2005 does not include adoption of I-code chapters on boilers, refrigeration, hydronic piping or fuel oil, which are covered by other Wisconsin codes.
 - **International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)** - Wisconsin's adoption does not include, as of May 2005, the fuel gas piping portions of the IFGC; but rather uses NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code.In addition, specified construction requirements of the **International Fire Code (IFC)** apply where the IFC is referenced by one of the other above-listed I-Codes.

- **Accessibility standards** – Wisconsin's Commercial Buildings Code accessibility standards include International Building Code language and Wisconsin exceptions to the IBC, and adoption of ICC/ANSI Standard A117.1-1998.
- **Administration & enforcement** – Wisconsin's Commercial Building Code has its own administration and enforcement requirements and does not adopt the administration and enforcement chapters of the I-Codes or NFPA standards.
- **Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Numbers**

Comm 14 – Fire Prevention Code, adopts **NFPA 1, National Fire Code**, with amendments (which in turn, adopts NFPA 101, Life Safety Code), for purposes of regulating the operation and maintenance of constructed buildings for fire-safety purposes. The building construction requirements, including retroactive ones, of these NFPA documents are not adopted; nor are certain sections that are covered under other codes, such as Comm 7, Explosives. Municipalities may petition to use the International Fire Code for operation and maintenance requirements in lieu of the NFPA standards.

Comm 61 – Administration and Enforcement, adopts the IBC, IECC, IMC, and IFGC.

Comm 62 – Buildings and Structures, include Wisconsin amendments to of the IBC.

Comm 63 – Energy Conservation, include Wisconsin amendments to the IECC.

Comm 64 – Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning, includes Wisconsin amendments to the IMC.

Comm 65 – Fuel Gas Appliances, includes Wisconsin amendments to the IFGC. Wisconsin does not adopt the fuel gas piping provisions of chapter 4 of the International Fuel Gas Code; but uses NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code, instead.

Comm 70 – Historic Buildings Code

Comm 75-79 – Existing Buildings Code

- **Adopted standards** – Many of the standards adopted by the current Wisconsin code are also adopted by the I-Codes. There are several key standards to consider obtaining (see national resources below):
 - **ASCE 7-98** - Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures
 - **ANSI A117.1-1998** - Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities
- **Comm code section numbering format** – For usability sake, Wisconsin amendments are numbered parallel to the amended I-code or NFPA standard. For example: section Comm 62.0703 amends IBC section 703 and section Comm 14.16 amends NFPA 1 chapter 16.

- **IBC Format** – The IBC is organized by topical code chapters; rather than by occupancy chapters or by a combination of topical code chapters and occupancy chapters. Code sections are decimally numbered.
- **Online Q&A about the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code** - See <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-CommercialBuildingsCodeQuestions.html>.
 - National resources – International Code Council, Tel. (703) 931-4533, website - <http://www.iccsafe.org/>
 - National Fire Protection Association, Tel. (800)344-3555, website - www.nfpa.org

You may order the Wisconsin Commercial Building Codes and other Safety and Buildings Division codes from state Document Sales.

- You may telephone Document Sales (with a Visa or MasterCard credit card), 800-362-7253, or 608-264-9419.
- You may purchase from the Document Sales office, 202 South Thornton Avenue, Madison, 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- You may purchase through the mail (with an order form) using a check, money order, or Visa or MasterCard credit card. The order form is available by calling 800-362-7253, or 608-264-9419, or from the Document Sales Web site.
- You may order by fax, 608-261-8150, using the order form along with a Visa or MasterCard credit card.

The *Wisconsin Enrolled Commercial Building Code* includes Comm 61 to 65 and the adopted provisions of the International Code Council codes: International Building Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Fuel Gas Code.